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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/712,227	11/15/2000	Noriko Kawai	1035-291	8669
23117	7590	06/05/2006	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			NORRIS, JEREMY C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/712,227

Applicant(s)

KAWAI ET AL.

Examiner

Jeremy C. Norris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 21, 27 and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 21, 27 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

The indicated allowability of claims 6, 21, 27, and 31 is withdrawn in view of the new interpretation of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 6, 21, 27, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,408,052 (Inaba) in view of US (5,818,697 (Armezzani) and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art disclosed with respect to figures 5 and 6 (AAPA) .

Inaba discloses, referring primarily to figure 1, a bent flexible wiring board comprising: a flexible insulating substrate that is bent (1); first bent wiring (4) provided on one surface of the insulating substrate; first bent insulative protecting film (7), provided on one surface of the insulating substrate, for protecting the first wiring; second bent wiring (not shown but referred to; col. 2, lines 55-65) provided on the other surface of the insulating substrate; second bent insulative protecting film (7), provided on the other surface of the insulating substrate, for protecting the second wiring; and a terminal portion (3), provided on at least one of the first wiring and the second wiring at an end thereof to be connected to an external electrical component, wherein: said first insulative protecting film and said second insulative protecting film are both premolded polymer films (sol. 2, lines 50-55), respectively, and are placed to cover the first wiring and the second wiring except for at least the terminal portion, and are bonded with the insulating substrate via an adhesive (6). Inaba does not specifically state that at least one of said first insulative protecting film and said second insulative protecting film, which is connected to the surface on which the terminal portion is provided is thinner

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than the insulating substrate. However, it is well known in the art to make protecting cover layers thinner than the base substrate as evidenced by Armezzani (col. 4, lines 25-30 and col. 5, lines 15-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form the protecting layers in the invention of Inaba to be thinner than the base substrate. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the thickness of the device without affecting the support of the wiring layers. Additionally, the modified invention of Inaba does not specifically teach that an end of the second insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion, the second insulative protecting film being on a side of the substrate opposite the terminal portion, is farther away from an end of the insulating substrate where the terminal portion is provided than an end of the first insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion [claims 6, 21]. However, AAPA teaches an end of a second insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion, the second insulative protecting film being on a side of the substrate opposite the terminal portion, is farther away from an end of the insulating substrate where the terminal portion is provided than an end of the first insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion (figure 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form the modified invention of Inaba with an end of the second insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion, the second insulative protecting film being on a side of the substrate opposite the terminal portion, is farther away from an end of the insulating substrate where the terminal portion is provided than an end of the first insulative protecting film closer to the terminal portion as taught by AAPA. The motivation for

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doing so would have been to reduce the number of layers that must be folded in the terminal mounting region, thus making the device more flexible.

Moreover the modified invention of Inaba teaches wherein said first and second wirings, which are on opposite sides of said flexible insulating substrate, are in electrical communication with each other via a through hole (5) [claims 27, 31].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6, 21, 27, and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

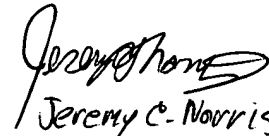
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy C. Norris whose telephone number is 571-272-1932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JCSN


Jeremy C. Norris
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